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PP RUEHPA  
DE RUEHNM #1039 2941452  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 201452Z OCT 08  
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4632  
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUZEHAA/CDR USEUCOM INTEL VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/CDR USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 001039

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/20/2018  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [SOCI](#) [KCOR](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [NG](#)  
SUBJECT: PRO-FORMER PM HAMA AMADOU SUPPORT RALLY DRAWS  
THOUSANDS; EVENT PROCEEDS PEACEFULLY

REF: A. NIAMEY 00632  
[1](#)B. NIAMEY 1028

Classified By: CDA E. Whitaker, Reason: Section 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) According to Embassy Niamey observers, on October 19, the Mouvement National de la Societe de Developpement (MNSD) held a large rally for several thousand members at the Place de la Concertation, an open-air public square in Niamey from approximately 0900 ) 1130 (Ref A). The event speakers called for the release of former Prime Minister Hama Amadou from prison, where he has been since June 26, 2008 (Ref B).  
[1](#)2. (C) The participants dispersed following the rally in a peaceful manner; although there were reports of plans for demonstrations or a possible march, neither took place. Embassy employees learned that the pro-Amadou group had sought a parade permit, but none was issued.  
[1](#)3. (C) Numerous Embassy employees reported no evidence of heightened tensions in Niamey, either on October 19 or 20, although some did notice a higher than usual number of police in city streets on the morning of October 19.  
[1](#)4. (C) Embassy sources indicated that the MNSD will hold party leadership elections on October 25 at the Palais des Congres to elect both a new president and possibly a secretary general.  
[1](#)5. (C) Comment: October 25 will mark the four-month imprisonment of Amadou, with followers appearing to become increasingly dismayed with his apparent marginalization from the anticipated 2009 presidential election. Some partisans regard his continued detention as a selective prosecution at a time when the GON has not released an electoral calendar for 2009. During the week of October 13-17, the judiciary replaced four individuals on the prosecution team, a move seen by some as an effort to strengthen the GON,s case against him. Finally, Embassy believes some pro-Amadou elements had expected clemency during the Eid al-Fitr in early October, which did not occur. End comment.  
WHITAKER